Losses due to private Courier Services

487. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) when the private courier services started in the country and whether the assistance of private courier services is regulated by Govenrment;

(b) if not, whether Government propose to conduct any survey with regard to number of private courier agencies operating in the country;

(c) whether Government have any data with regard to financial losses Government have suffered after introduction of such private services; and

(d) the measures Government proposed to take to ensure the efficient operation of its speed post and parcel services in respect of competition security and delivery vis-a-vis private services and regain its monopoly in operations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (d) Exclusive privilege reserved to the Government under the provisions of Section 4 of the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, relates only to conveyance of letters and not to documents, parcels, etc. Hence, private couriers have been in operation since long.

The Department of Posts has taken the following measures to ensure efficient operation of speed post and parcel services:—

(i) Delivery through dedicated staff.
(ii) Mechanisation of delivery.
(iii) Free pick-up service from the customer's premises.
(iv) Computerisation of booking and delivery.
(v) Introduction of track and trace system.
(vi) Monitering of quality.

As a result of the above mentioned measures, the market share of speed post is growing over the years.

Electronic Exchanges in Maharashtra

488. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of electronic exchanges functioning in Maharashtra State, district-wise; and

(b) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to convert some of the existing manual telephone exchanges into electronic ones in various place in Maharashtra during the ensuring year; if so, the details thereof and the estimated expenditure involved in conversion of these exchanges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The information is gives in the enclosed Statement. (See below).

(b) Sir, there is no manual telephone exchange working at present in Maharashtra State.

Statement

No. of electronic exchanges functioning in Maharashtra State.

Sl. No.	Name of District	Total
1.	Ahmednagar	239
2.	Akola	67
3.	Washim	37
4.	Amravati	95
5.	Aurangabad	95
6.	Beed	68
7.	Bhandara	40
8.	Gondia	40
9.	Buldhana	86
10.	Chandrapur	64
11.	Dhule	71
12.	Nandurbar	40
13.	Gadchiroli	26
14.	Jalgaon	165
15.	Jalna	550
16.	Kalyan	88
17.	Kolhapur	179
18.	Latur	81
19.	Nagpur	107
20.	Nanded	93
21.	Nasik	191
22.	Osmanabad	61
23.	Parbhani	38

Sl. No.	Name of District	Total
24.	Hingoli	32
25.	Pune	188
26.	Raigad	125
27.	Ratnagiri	101
28.	Sangli	186
29.	Satara	148
30.	Sindhudurg	64
31.	Solapur	138
32	Wardha	56
33.	Yeotamal	57
34.	Mumbai	114
35.	Thane	24

Grants to institutions for promotion of art and culture

489. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given grant to different institutions for promoting culture and art; and

(b) if so, the institutions to which Government propose to give assistance to promote culture and art?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Government gives grant for promoting culture and art to various voluntary organisations and individuals under different schemes on year to year basis. The following Autonomous Bodies under the Department of Culture also promoter art and culture:—

1. Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal
2. National Council of Science Museums, Calcutta
3. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi
4. Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi
5. Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi
6. Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi
7. National School of Drama, New Delhi
8. Centre for Culture Resource and Training New Delhi
9. Gandhi smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi
10. Allahabad Museum, Allahabad
11. Delhi Public Library, Delhi
12. Raja Rammohan Roy Library Foundation, Calcutta